I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Original). A method for identifying an agent that binds to a bacterial RNAP homologous RNA-exit-channel amino-acid sequence in a first entity, comprising the steps of: (a) preparing a reaction solution including the agent to be tested and a first entity including a bacterial RNAP homologous RNA-exit-channel amino-acid sequence; and (b) detecting at least one of the presence, extent, concentration-dependence, or kinetics of binding of the agent to the homologous bacterial RNAP RNA-exit-channel amino-acid sequence.

Claim 2. (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein the first entity is an intact bacterial RNAP.

Claim 3. (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein the first entity is a fragment of a bacterial RNAP.

Claim 4. (Previously presented). The method of claim 1 wherein the first entity is Escherichia coli RNAP.

Claim 5. (Previously presented). The method of claim 1 wherein the first entity is Bacillus subtilis RNAP.

Claim 6. (Original). The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of: detecting at least one of the presence, extent, concentration-dependence, or kinetics of binding of the agent to a second entity that contains a derivative of a bacterial RNAP homologous RNA-exit-channel amino-acid sequence having at least one substitution, insertion, or deletion.

Claim 7. (Original). The method of claims 6 wherein the second entity is a derivative of an intact bacterial RNAP.

Claim 8. (Original). The method of claim 6 wherein the second entity is a derivative of a fragment of a bacterial RNAP.

Claim 9. (Original). The method of claim 6 wherein the second entity is a derivative of Escherichia coli RNAP.

Claim 10. (Original). The method of claim 6 wherein the second entity is a derivative of Bacilus subtilis RNAP.

Claim 11. (Previously presented). The method of claim 1 further comprising comparison of: (a) at least one of the presence, extent, concentration-dependence, or kinetics of binding of the agent to the first entity, and (b) at least one of the presence, extent, concentration-dependence, or kinetics of binding of the agent to a eukaryotic RNAP.

Claim 12. (Previously presented). The method of claim 11 wherein the eukaryotic RNAP is a human RNAP.

Claim 13. (Previously presented). The method of claim 11 wherein the eukaryotic RNAP is a human RNAP II.

Claims 14-81. (Cancelled)